

Skygac's Column

"Many businesses are feeling the pinch of hard times—manifested in one way or another. Orders withheld, cancellations * * * reduced profits with high overhead, and so on. * * * Yes hard times are upon us—(us businessmen). The foregoing was taken verbatim from an advertisement which appeared in the W. G. N. (World's Greatest Nuisance some call it) the Chicago Tribune of June 11th. It was headed, "Stampeded by Cancellations".

Now if the poor wageearners had only saved their money—and they COULD save their money—if it did not take money to live—if I did not eat I'd have money to burn!"

Panics are symptoms of crisis in our social system. We usually weather one by making the proper conditions for a harder one next time. Read the Communist Manifesto of 1848 for the clearest explanation of panics; their cause and cure.

Does Harding own any Standard Oil stock?

More important still, does Standard Oil own any Harding stock?

In the struggle for life, violence is the first virtue, yet we are told that we dare not admit it.

In the animal world, force is the chief factor in determining the possession of the female by the male.

Force and violence—there is the subject matter of the last two paragraphs. In conclusion we might add—and then again we might not!!!

The other day I had an argument with a patriot, one of the howling shouting flag-waving, stay-at-home-and-profit sort who cheered the boys as they left and forgot them when they were gone, who gravely assured me that under no circumstances were force or violence to be permissible. I thereupon asked him if he approved of the police force. He did. What would a police force be like if it could not use force if necessary? Armies and navies are efficient just in proportion to their ability to use force and (if necessary) violence. You see. Hy it is this way—force and violence is justifiable if used against you, but all wrong for you to advocate or use.

Nature has neither plan or purpose. It is as aimless as the average farmer, and like the common or garden variety of wage-slave she just gets by, moving along the line of least resistance and in conformity with the natural law of her own existence.

There is a fanatic under my window telling all about the love of God, while over our heads the bull-bats are gathering their evening meal of live insects, eaten alive. Selah!

"Counting may be looked upon as a refined and delicate form of combat," opines Collin Scott. Sort of a preliminary training for matrimony as it were.

Why do the Allens and the rest of the barbooses always refer to the seah as "the man who serves his country"? Is it really true that a man can not strike and serve his country but can seah and serve his country? I know a man can't strike and serve his master but hasn't master got master and country a bit mixed?

"Any old president is better than none," says Black and White in its seah number. Well they ought to be satisfied.

Bryan is still in politics even tho the fifty cent dollar has dwindled until it won't purchase as much as twobits used to buy.

If the only way to keep men sober and virtuous is prohibition of liquor can they expect to keep men pure and virtuous without abolishing sex?

The overall craze was like a Mother Hubbard wrapper, it covered so much territory that it didn't touch anywhere.

Besides who can imagine a presidential candidate in overalls?

Now that both the old parties have nominated their choice for the presidency, let me suggest a simplified form of election—let them place the names of Harding and Cox on a ballot and instruct the voters to designate their choice for the presidency, then give the presidency to the one receiving the most votes and the vice-presidency may go as a consolation prize to the defeated candidate. By following this simple plan, big business will be assured of having their man in the chair and Ohio can keep up its reputation of being the mother of presidents. For the common people—after election as before they will still have to work for wages, when they can find the work to do—and will get as wages the bare cost of their reproduction. All the surplus values will go—after election as they do now before election—into the pockets of the parasite class.

Both presidential candidates are "safe and sane". By that term we mean they will both support "our existing institutions," including jails, penitentiaries, churches, wage-slavery and the institution of private property. Neither of the candidates can be considered visionary—by which is meant they have no idea or ideal of a better system of society than the present

Communist International will Consider Many Problems of Proletarian Revolution

CHRISTIANIA, Norway, June 5.—(By Mail)—A radio just received from Moscow brings the text of a manifesto issued by the executive committee of the communist international (popularly known as the Third International), in which the date for the second international communist congress is set for July 15, and the following program is announced for the sessions, which are to take place in Moscow:

1. Report of the Executive Committee.
 2. Reports of delegates from the different countries.
 3. The present situation and the international.
 4. Parliamentarism.
 5. Trade unions and workmen's councils.
 6. The composition and role of the Communist party, with special reference to the acquisition of power by the proletariat.
 7. The economic policy of nations.
 8. The land question.
 9. The attitude of the communist international toward the new tendency of "center" groups of accepting in theory the communist platform and the conditions of membership in the Third International.
 10. By-laws of the communist international.
 11. Women's organizations.
 12. Young people's groups.
- It is further announced in the manifesto that the right of representation is extended to all communist parties, groups, and trade unions which have officially affiliated with the Third International.

All groups and organizations which subscribe to the principles of the communist international, but which are opposed to the party in their own country that has affiliated with the Third International, are also invited to send representatives to the congress, which will then devise a formula as to what voting power shall be accorded these groups.

Syndicalist and industrial organizations of workers which have been in touch with the executive committee are also invited.

The executive committee urges all participating groups to nominate in advance the members who shall represent them on the incoming committees of the party, and to make arrangements by which it will be possible for the persons so chosen to remain in Russia for some time after the congress.

The manifesto closes by stating that the tremendously rapid spread of communist ideas over the whole world makes necessary the calling of this congress, which will issue clear and positive declarations concerning all the questions on the agenda, and which will indicate the guiding lines for the world revolution of the workers.

The Failure of the French Strike

By Marie A. Czaplicka.

The events of the first of May of last year in Paris marked the awakening of the labor movement of France from the nationalism of the war, and the even more intense nationalism of the peace. The complete reawakening, however, has come only with the first of May of this year, and the general strike which accompanied it. Though the strike movement could hardly be called a success, and finally died out three weeks after its inception, its importance must not be underestimated, for it marked the beginning of a new spirit and a new policy in the trade-union movement of France and more particularly in the central federation of labor organizations, known as the Confederation Generale du Travail, or more familiarly the "C. G. T."

The C. G. T. exhibits a local coloring as strong as that of France itself, compared with other countries and this national flavor is not greatly influenced by the diversity of political opinions among its members. Before the outbreak of the war in 1914 there was a decided conflict over policy between the reformists and the revolutionists, which was intensified by the war itself toward which the majority of the members of the C. G. T. assumed a favorable attitude. The reversion of the issue of Second or Third International, of Berne or Moscow respectively, have been felt to a considerable extent within the fold of the C. G. T., but the influence of all the political international issue has been greatly mitigated by the strict insistence of the organization on a non-political policy within its ranks.

The C. G. T. has thus far been more successful in its national policy than in international action. An outstanding achievement is the Eight Hours Bill which was passed by the French Chamber on April last. On the other hand the general strike proposed as a manifestation against the intervention in Russia and Hungary, which was fixed for July 2, 1919, proved a total fiasco. The recent strike is another proof of the French character of the C. G. T. The question about which it chiefly revolved was that of the nationalization of the railways which is generally considered in France to be of the greatest importance. The railroad system of France is urged need of reform from every point of view. The welfare of the system has been sacrificed to the interests of capitalist contractors until there is now a permanent deficit which keeps the whole railroad system in a backward condition of operation and development. Such a state of affairs would justify have encountered general disapproval, and it is to the credit of French labor that their view of the situation has been more free of reactionary bias than that of either the Government or the Chamber, although it is certainly to the interest of the French state no less than that of the railroad unions that consideration be given to the nationalization program of the C. G. T.

A complete program of nationalization has been worked out by the Economic Research Committee of the C. G. T. which includes many of the best thinkers on social and economic questions. It proposes to entrust the management of the railroads to an impartial body composed of the representatives of all classes. In the administration of the railroads the labor program recognizes the necessity

of supervision by the "economic collectivity", representing the interests of all the shareholders rather than that of a few influential individuals. Herein lies the chief point of difference between the present system and the one which has been proposed. The C. G. T. program further provides for a central organization of administration combined with a decentralization of executive power and control. The technical side of the program envisages a complete overhauling of the physical equipment of the roads and the installation of all kinds of modern devices with a view to the technical standardization of the various subsidiary railroad lines. In the negotiations on the question of wages the railroad unions are to have an equal voice with the Central Board of Administration, but the strike nevertheless remains as a weapon of last resort to be used by the workers in defense of their rights if discussion fails to adjust the dispute. And finally all the reforms proposed are according to the plan to be carried out under the present regime without destroying the continuity of the service.

An alternative plan of reform has been brought forward by the government as a counterbalance to the influence of the labor program. According to the government plan all changes are to be brought about within the structure of the existing system. The extent of the collaboration of the workers is ill-defined, but the government program agrees with that of the C. G. T. on the all-important reform of unification of the existing system, which is especially emphasized by the government as it is by labor. The reorganization of transportation is the first serious step taken by the French government of the labor movement toward reconstruction. It is surprising that the government has allowed the deterioration of the railways to proceed so far in view of the important role which they played during the war, when they were a decisive factor in the determination of victory.

The situation is therefore clearly such that the strike of last May may be considered to have produced important results, in spite of the fact that the press speaks shrilly of its collapse as a defeat from anemia, and represents the general public as full of indignation against the strikers.

From the standpoint of labor solidarity the strike has been a wonderful success and has shown a remarkable discipline in the ranks of labor. Many workers participated in it who were not making any local demands of their own, a rather unique experience in the French labor movement. Such is the opinion of M. Ernest Lafont, Socialist deputy of the Loire and incidentally one of the few advocates of anti-alcoholism. On the other hand his statement is contradicted by the fact that some of the strikers went over the heads of their leaders. For France like other countries is in need of changes within the labor organizations. The leaders of the trade unions or "syndicates" are the most popular representatives of the movement, while the socialist deputies in the Chamber are preoccupied with political questions, rather than the industrial problems which are the first concern of the C. G. T.

When, however, the Government at the climax of the strike announced

Soviets turn Villas of Rich in to Children's Hospitals

When I was in Finland awaiting an opportunity to slip across the border into soviet Russia a violent anti-bolshevik said to me:

"You will find no children under 9 years of age in Russia. There are no medical care nor attention for the youngsters. They have been unable to survive."

I would have enjoyed having this gentleman with me when I visited some of the children's hospitals and sanatoriums in Moscow.

The tuberculosis sanatoriums occupy former villas of wealthy Moscow merchants and aristocrats in the summer park colony a few versts from Moscow, and here one forgets for a moment the difficulties of life in Moscow in contemplation of a remarkable work well organized and well done.

Equality for Children.

"The government believes," said the cheerful young woman doctor in charge of one of the larger sanatoriums for treatment of bone tuberculosis, "that every child, irrespective of parentage or social condition, has its right to life and health. It is our duty, if nothing else, to see that these little ones are put straight and given the same opportunities other youngsters have. There is nothing philanthropic about the work."

Perhaps there is no philanthropy, but there certainly is a vast amount of humanitarian spirit in the organization of these clinics and hospitals, and a great deal of love in the hearts of the women who are directing them.

Technical Models of Kind.

In technique they are models of their kind. The largest and best equipped villas have been chosen, those which provide open verandas and balconies where the children can spend most of their time in the sunlight when the weather permits.

The impressive thing was the cheerfulness of the little ones and the spirit of comradeship which exists between them and their leaders.

In order that they should not fall behind in their school work they are given daily lessons, the bedridden ones being supplied with swinging desks across their beds on which they do their work. They are carefully watched to see that they do not overdo their strength, but it is surprising how much quicker than the average are the minds of these little sufferers.

Its intention to dissolve the C. G. T. or suspend its activities, no protest was heard in the Press except that representing the socialist point of view, and the first attack on their measure came with the reopening of Parliament. M. Paul Boncour, the Socialist deputy of Paris. So that after all perhaps M. Merheim, the head of the Metal Workers Union and one of the leading intellectuals of the labor movement, was right in his statement that without this strike there would have been no effort for the improvement of social conditions in France.

When compared with similar movements in other countries as for instance Great Britain, the French strike seems to have met much more opposition from the government and much less from the public. The so-called Civil League which supplied the workers to take the place of the strikers is not an enthusiastic body of volunteer patriots, and its name would seem to indicate, but rather a group of casual strike-breakers interested in the daily pay they draw for their services in the strike, and unwilling or unable to take a permanent position. On the other hand the arrest of almost all the popular leaders and the provocative display of military force would indicate a greater degree of anxiety on the part of the Government than a million unarmed strikers should have been able to produce.

From what has been said it is clear that the strike was in its general character an affair of internal politics in France. The cessation of hostilities against Soviet Russia was indeed included among the strike demands, but received no advertisement in the Socialist press, nor on the other hand in the debates in the Chamber on the subject of the strike. The rapid changes which French foreign policy has been undergoing recently have produced a chaotic impression upon the mind of the average Frenchman, but the majority is still more impressed with the destructive than the constructive activities of the Soviet Government. The present intransigent policy of the French government however is certainly stimulating the movement toward fraternization with all elements both within the country and outside who are being persecuted by the official activity and publicity.

The Black Sheep.

Chapter XXXIX.

In the Mines.

The next four months were more than eventful. Jack and Collins employed their time to no small extent in going from one mining camp to another getting work, starting agitation, and being fired (discharged). They managed to do just work enough to keep themselves supplied with food and shelter while they preached the doctrine of industrial solidarity to the workers in various mining camps. One of their first stops was at Wardner of "bull pen" fame. Here Collins, who was among other things an experienced miner, got work under ground with Jack for a helper.

As was their custom they immediately began to talk the need of organization to their fellow workers, with the expected result that they were summarily discharged.

From Wardner they went to Kellogg, a near by town of equally odiferous reputation. News of their coming had evidently preceded them, for when they applied at the superintendent's office for work, he told them curtly that their kind was not wanted in Kellogg, and he advised them, "to beat it, and beat it fast." He informed them that there had been enough discontent sown among the workers, and that he for one, would see to it that no anarchists and trouble makers came to, or remained in the camp. "The employers are the best friends the laboring man has," the mine chief roared. "I believe in American freedom; in the personal liberty of every man to choose the condition under which he will work, so take warning and get out."

While the superintendent spoke, Collins looked at him with a glint of malice in his steel grey eyes. It was evident that more words would not frighten the big man, for he made no reply to the superintendent's implied threats but simply advised him to take a swift passage to a lower region and a higher temperature. After leaving the superintendent's office the two went to a hotel where they rested until the evening.

At seven thirty they picked up a box in an alley, and setting it up in front of a boarding house, Collins began to talk to a group of miners who were congregated on the porch. They did not succeed in getting very much of a crowd, for the well known reason that every man with a cent's worth of manhood, and intelligence above that of a Digger Indian had been run out of the district by the militia and the Pinkerton thugs during the strike of 1903. The men who worked there now, were nearly all "Missourians," that is to say, a hopelessly scabby and ignorant lot. At least that is what the word Missourian signified to the few intelligent miners who were still there working on private prospects.

While a few men stayed and listened to what Collins had to say others went away to tell their boss that there were a couple of agitators in town, a thing that could not then, or cannot now be tolerated in either Kellogg or Wardner.

Just as Collins was warming up to his subject, and Jack had unpacked a bunch of "International Socialist Reviews" six men drove up with a car and invited them to take a ride, making their invitation urgent by the use of a couple of full grown revolvers. Jack looked at the small crowd of miners to whom his partner had been speaking, but they showed as little concern for what might happen to them, as if they were a group of female moose watching a battle of bucks for the right of herd supremacy.

It surely looked to the boy as if they were hopelessly out numbered and that to resist would be useless. But Collins took an entirely different view of the matter. "Are you officers?" he asked the men in the machine.

"It is none of your damned business what we are," said one of the men, a square faced red headed, plug ugly, as he jumped out of the car and came toward them, as if to take them by force.

"We are here to enforce law and order, and to do it either by stringing you up or running you out of town. We have not decided what we will do," explained another, who was now holding a gun near the big man's stomach.

"Well," answered Collins coolly, "if we are to die, one place is as good as the other, and you will be as good company in hell as any I know." So saying from his vantage point on his soap box, he kicked the fellow who had him covered with the gun under the chin, while imitating his companion Jack, kicked the one who covered him in an even more sensitive part of his anatomy, causing his adversary to fling up his hands, thereby losing his weapon, which Jack caught as it flew out of the gun man's hand. Quick as a flash he fired a shot into the rear tire of the machine and before the other gunmen realized what had happened, both he and Collins had darted into an alley, and running over a mine dump, they entered the woods, dodging several bullets fired after them by the men who had been in the car, but who now gave chase on foot.

When the two had reached the woods Collins hurriedly told Jack that the best thing they could do, would be to climb one of the second growth firs and hide among the branches. This they did as soon as they had sufficiently outdistanced their pursuers. This did not take them long for both were in splendid physical condition and the approaching darkness was friendly to them. In less than ten minutes after they had left the box they were up among the evergreen branches of the trees, while their pursuers passed almost directly under them.

From their place in the trees they could over hear much of what the gunmen said. Their remarks angered Collins and amused Jack. Much of what their pursuers said were threats of violence, interspersed with words of praise for the clever way in which

they had effected their escape. One bewailed the loss of his gun, which he said had three notches on it, meaning that he had killed three men. Jack felt of the handle and sure enough the greynose relies were there. The boy was almost tempted to shout that he would like to put on another notch at its former owner's expense, but his bump of caution was too large.

The gunmen wandered far afield in search of their intended victims, in fact they scoured the whole neighborhood until well after dark, then they returned to the town, after which the two companions descended from their arboreal refuge, and made their way to a little Finn colony nestling in a wild mountain canyon near the village of Enanville, a little to the west of the town of Wallace.

They decided to stop for a few days with these friendly people and wait until they could get new supplies from Spokane, for all their literature, which after all is the best ammunition for the agitator, had been lost in the melee. And that was not all, their suitcases, containing much of their personal effects, were as yet at the Kellogg Hotel.

During the few days they stayed at the Finn colony, Jack wrote a full account of what had happened to Olive Anderson, who by this time was eagerly watching every mail for news from the boy. Oftentimes she enjoyed Collins' occasional notes quite as much as Jack's elaborate and carefully studied accounts of what was taking place. For Collins living the life of a revolutionist could make the meaning of the struggle much plainer than Jack who only studied it.

After about four days Collins and Jack went back to Kellogg and took the suitcases from the hotel. The proprietor told them that the man whose gun the boy had taken away had been teased so much by the others that he had left camp. To which Jack replied, that he was sorry this had happened as he wanted to return the gun to its rightful owner. Only now he decided to keep it until such a time as he met him again, when possibly he might need it. Nobody molested them at Kellogg and they left on the afternoon train for Wallace, where they met with a group of miners, who were Western Federation men, and who were going up to Burke to work in the mines. They insisted that Jack and Collins go with them and get a job, so as to be able to assist in crystallizing what ever union sentiment they could find into a form for effective organization.

They did find work at Burke and stayed on the job until the end of May. The trial of Moyer, Haywood, and Pettibone now engaged Collins' attention. He decided it would be a good thing for him and Jack to go to Boise, and see and hear what was going on. He told the boy that the Nevada, Arizona, and Colorado mines were well organized in their capitalistic union and that consequently they would put up a bitter legal fight, with the formidable forces brought into play by the master class.

There were several things which made the prospects of a trip to Boise very alluring to the boy. One of these was the fact that Rudolph, who had gone to Spokane, when Jack and Collins started for the mines, had written that he would in all probability be in Boise, and write up the trial for the Jawish paper back east. For the present he was employed in a second hand book store on Stevens Street, where he could commune with his beloved poets, with only an occasional customer to interrupt him. Jack liked Rudolph and his mode of thinking immensely, but it was Collins who held him by the sheer force of personality.

The next reason was that the trial offered him a chance to learn more about man; it would increase his stock of knowledge, and for the increase of knowledge he seemed to live. With him the acquisition of information was an end in itself. He lived to know. In this he differed from Collins who lived to do, and for whom knowledge had little value except as it aided him in doing the things he considered worth while.

There was yet another, and perhaps it was the greatest incentive, to the boy in making the trip. It would be made on foot, over what is perhaps the most picturesque mountain trail in America. He would see new rocks, new formations, new animals, new birds and plants; these things were food to his mind. And he would hear the trial, the great legal battle, where he might study the play of passion in the hearts of strong men. In the court room he would behold the mental conflict of interests. He would see and hear the classes struggle for supremacy in industry, which was but an initial phase of their ultimate struggle to survive.

There can be no doubt but what the boys discussion to fight for the class war was eminently sincere, for his training had taught him that due to his economic position he really could not escape his part in it, yet, his mind was not adapted to the thought processes it demands. And hence, he habitually reasoned in other terms. He was like an eagle with mighty wings, who felt conscious of a power to soar above the clouds, and yet who for some ideal's sake, resolved not to fly. With Collins as this was different. He thought in terms of economics, he spoke the language of sociology, he dreamed in pictures of organized masses. He wanted to go to Boise for no other purpose than to be able to say to the workers, "I was there. I saw and heard the battle. Such and such are the tactics of the masters. I know, because I have heard and seen them in action, on the job, and in their courts." With Collins the class struggle was an intellectual conviction, with Jack it was primarily an emotional appeal.

With these different, and yet to some extent similar motives, in mind they journeyed to Boise, arriving on the opening day of the historic trial.

(Continued next week.)